



March 15, 2016

To Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Legislative Office Building Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: United Steelworkers Local 134L Support for Judiciary Committee Bill No. 431

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

On behalf of the 850 members of United Steelworkers Local 134L, I am writing to express our support for Bill No. 431, *An Act Concerning Consent Orders Entered into by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*. I urge this committee to pass the bill and to ensure all Connecticut citizens and businesses have the right to due process when conducting business with the DEEP.

Local 134L has a long, successful history with BIC at its Milford manufacturing facility. For more than 50 years, BIC has called Milford home, providing substantial investment in people, intellectual property, and facilities. BIC's investment continues to grow, with our Steelworkers adding nearly 40 new jobs in the past year at BIC's Milford factory.

As president of a leading labor organization, I understand the value of a contract. Once both parties have negotiated and agreed to the terms, they must not be unilaterally amended or revoked. If they are, or if the terms have not been met, the breach must be subjected to review by a court of law. To us, this makes common sense. Unfortunately, the current law that pertains to consent agreements entered into with the DEEP (section 22a-6dd) is not clear and must be corrected.

Correcting the law to reinforce the binding nature of consent agreements is in the best interests not only of Connecticut's businesses, but also its workers. A harsh reality is that this state has been struggling to maintain and grow reliable, well-paying manufacturing jobs. By creating a more predictable and productive business climate, Bill No. 431 will help encourage companies to make agreements with the state, invest in the state, and create more lasting, local manufacturing jobs in Connecticut.

Again, on behalf of the hard-working men and women of United Steelworkers Local 134L, I urge you to review and pass Bill 431.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Michael Alberino  
President  
Steelworkers Local 134L